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The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

Critical Intelligence Problems Committee

DCI/ICS 86-3780

19 August 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, Critical Intelligence Problems Committee

SUBJECT: Status of the Collection Strategy Evaluation Project

1. The second phase is nearing completion in our staff effort to develop a Collection Strategy Evaluation Method (CSEM) that makes use of the Future Intelligence Requirements Forecast (FIRF). We have made minor refinements to our initial logic and designed several optional "add-ons" to accommodate suggestions that were forthcoming when the concept was circulated for comment among ICS offices last December (e.g., allowing for the possibility of various degrees of coordination between INTs).

2. Key materials have been assembled in Part II Wrap-up Report, which documents our accomplishments during the two years this project has been underway. Although we are continuing to work on one additional feature that would enable the computer model to search out and identify an optimum strategy on its own (rather than just evaluate pre-selected strategies that are fed into it), the concept development, design, and engineering for CSEM are now essentially complete.

3. A prototype demonstration of the kind of management information reports CSEM produces has been planned as the final objective for Phase II. Toward this end, the basic logic has been programmed (on the CIA's "VM" computer time-sharing system) and tested against a small set of hypothetical sample data. It works. But our temporary programming support, which was provided by the CIA Career Training Program, ran out just short of accomplishing everything needed for the prototype demonstration. This task continues to be worked on a limited, time-available basis consistent with our programmer's new responsibilities elsewhere.

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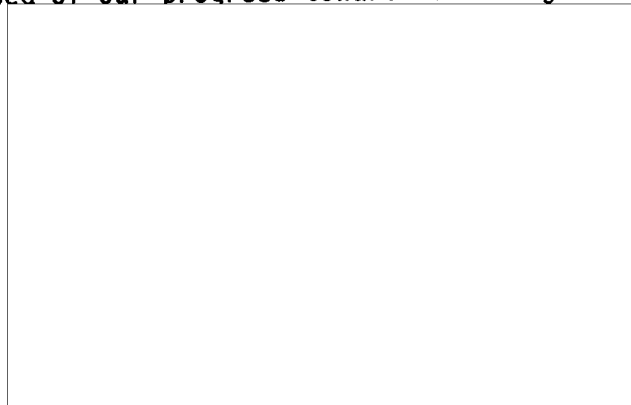
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4. When the prototype demonstration is ready, we will once again face a decision about what to do next with this difficult and contentious assignment (which, you may recall, dates all the way back to discussions held at the DCI's off-site conference in 1983). Our concept has profound ramifications for the Community's accustomed way of allocating collection resources and faces strong, possibly intractable opposition that has not been balanced, at least as yet, by any equally staunch expressions of support from other quarters.

5. If it is eventually decided to press on toward implementation of the full CSEM, we must then be prepared to scale-up our level of effort substantially. We will keep you advised of our progress toward achieving the prototype demonstration.



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Status of the Collection Strategy Collection Project

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Some day I hope that someone will give me a briefing on this.

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Willi

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